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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 12 December 1994
Agenda item 3

REVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF UNCTAD AND THEIR FINANCING

Agreed conclusions */

Taking into account agreed conclusions 421 (XLI) on technical cooperation activities adopted by the Trade and Development Board on 30 September 1994, and after analysing the technical cooperation programmes of UNCTAD, the Working Party:

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report on technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and the complementary statistical information submitted by the secretariat (TD/B/WP/84 and Add. 1);

2. Stresses the importance of clear priority setting and the cost effective use of resources in order to maximize the impact of UNCTAD's technical cooperation;

3. Commends the UNCTAD secretariat for its efforts to improve the management and cost-effectiveness of its technical cooperation;

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*/ Adopted by the Working Party at its 107th (closing) meeting, on 14 December 1994.

4. Urges the UNCTAD secretariat to continue with the implementation of measures aimed at increasing transparency and overall administrative efficiency, in particular to ensure the allocation of support costs in a transparent and equitable manner, and requests the secretariat to report regularly on the implementation of those measures;

5. Observes that criteria governing the extent and content of technical assistance should include timely consideration of developments in economic restructuring of the user countries both at macro and micro levels vis-à-vis applicability of the technical assistance currently at hand or scheduled to be redesigned;

6. Notes with concern the adverse impact on some of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities of reduced funding from UNDP;

7. Appeals to the Executive Board of UNDP to make its best endeavours to maintain the availability of funds for technical cooperation projects where UNCTAD has a comparative advantage;

8. Welcomes the increasing financial support for UNCTAD's technical cooperation programmes by member States and other donors;

9. Invites donors to increase their level of extra-budgetary contributions, particularly in those areas of UNCTAD's technical cooperation programme where there is as yet an unsatisfied demand;

10. Calls upon the UNCTAD secretariat to explore the possibilities of intensifying cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular GATT/WTO and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC), with the objective of fully utilizing existing strengths, increasing the combined impact, exploiting complementarities and creating new synergies while avoiding unnecessary overlap;

11. Calls for a very close cooperation by UNCTAD and ITC in the implementation of the Trade Point programme following the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency;

12. Requests the UNCTAD secretariat to report regularly to the Trade and Development Board on its coordination with other relevant organizations in order to allow for a coherent division of labour among the various institutions providing technical assistance in the field of trade and development;

13. Also requests the UNCTAD secretariat to keep the member States and Permanent Missions in Geneva abreast, on a regular basis, of developments and progress in the area of technical cooperation activities;

14. Requests the UNCTAD secretariat to present the documentation for the subsequent sessions of the Working Party that deal with technical cooperation in the following format:

(a) **An annual report** on topics on technical cooperation selected by the Working Party in collaboration with the UNCTAD secretariat, beginning in 1995 with the issue of national capacity-building associated with international trade negotiations;

(b) **An in-depth study** on a technical cooperation programme selected by the Working Party in collaboration with the secretariat, which will allow the Working Party to better evaluate the programme, recommend follow-up action and enhance UNCTAD's comparative advantages, beginning in 1995 with the ASYCUDA programme;

(c) **Reformulate the documentation** submitted to the Working Party to provide, on a Division-by-Division basis, information and analysis on each technical cooperation programme, as follows:

- Content, objectives and features of each programme and its relationship to the work programme
- List of projects, beneficiaries and donors
- Coordination within the secretariat and with other organizations
- Resources allocated
- Time-schedule for implementation
- Main outputs and impact/results/follow-up (including information on any evaluation studies); and
- Problems encountered and solutions proposed.

15. Requests the UNCTAD secretariat to explore the possibility of setting up an evaluation mechanism such as that used in other relevant international organizations.